

National Donor Sabbath: Prayers & Response Readings

Jewish Reading

We do the best homage to our dead when we live our lives most fully, even in the shadow of our loss. For each of our lives is worth the life of the whole world; in each one is the breath of the Ultimate One. In affirming the One, we affirm the worth of each one whose life, now ended, brought us closer to the Source of Life, in whose unity no one is alone and every life finds purpose.

(Rabbi Richard N. Levy)

Unision Reading

Birth is a beginning and death is a destination. And life is a journey.
From childhood to maturity and youth to age;
From innocence to awareness and ignorance to knowing;
From foolishness to discretion and then, perhaps, to wisdom;
From weakness to strength or strength to weakness. And often, back again;
From loneliness to love, from joy to gratitude, from pain to compassion,
From grief to understanding, from fear to faith,
From defeat to defeat to defeat. Until looking backward or ahead,
We see that victory lies not at some high place along the way,
But in having made the journey, stage by stage a sacred pilgrimage.
Birth is a beginning and death is a destination.
And life is a journey, a sacred pilgrimage—to life everlasting.

(Rabbi Alvin Fine)